

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by moving the legend for the described patent literature prior to describing the individual citations.

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 have each been amended by deleting the term “in oil” with regard to the step of drying, to eliminate any ambiguity with regard to the drying step, which is not the same thing as “drying in oil”. See the specification at page 16, second and third lines from the bottom.

New Claims 12-15 have been added. Claim 12 is supported in the specification at page 14, second full paragraph. Claim 13 is supported at the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15. Claim 14 is supported at page 15, first full paragraph. Claim 15 is supported at the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-15 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner finds that Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 (and their dependents), are not clear as to how the step of treating the ground product differs from the step of drying the ground product.

In reply, Applicants respectfully submit that the differences would be well understood from a review of the specification. Beginning at page 14, second full paragraph, the treating step is described. Beginning in the specification at page 16, last full paragraph, the drying step is described. It is thus clear that the treating and drying steps are different. Note that the term "in oil" has been deleted from the recital of the drying step in the claims, to clarify that there is no requirement that the drying be carried out "in oil". Of course, oil may very well be present during the drying step, but drying refers to removal of water vapor, not oil, as described in the specification .

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to the specification is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

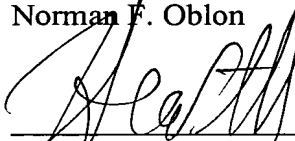
Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

NFO:HAP\la

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



Harris A. Pitlick  
Registration No. 38,779